

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method for creating ~~an analytical~~ a report using a multidimensional data model and a database, ~~wherein a computer system accesses the database to provide returned values responsive to queries specified in a predefined query language,~~ wherein the multidimensional data model includes a plurality of dimensions organizing data as sets of values organized in a multidimensional cube structure, ~~wherein the method includes a user interface executing on a computer system operated by a human user, wherein the computer system executing the user interface includes a processor coupled to a memory, wherein the processor is further coupled to the user interface, data model, and the database,~~ the method comprising:

presenting to the user a plurality of selections associated with reporting objects and metadata objects;

accepting a user input to select at least one reporting object and one metadata object;

parsing the a selected reporting objects into layout information and a selected metadata object into data definition information;

using the data definition information to deduce form a deduced set of data;

creating one or more queries based upon the deduced set of data; and

querying a data source with the one or more queries to retrieve secure retrieved data associated with the deduced set of data; and

presenting a report based upon the retrieved data and the layout information.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~further comprising:~~

~~providing the retrieved data to the user to generate the report according to the user's selected reporting objects; and~~

~~using the layout information to present the retrieved data in a report format associated with the layout information wherein each reporting object specifies at least one presentation object selected from a vertical table, a horizontal table, a cross table, a graph, a section, a page header, a page footer, and a cross-tab.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein accepting a user inputs ~~is by~~ includes dragging and dropping a graphical representation of the a reporting object in a position relative to one or more other graphically represented reporting objects, where the relative positions to the other

between graphically represented reporting objects determines ~~that~~ layout information ~~and the data definition information.~~

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein accepting a user inputs ~~is by~~ includes entering instructions into a text editor.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein accepting a user inputs further comprises generating a report specification, wherein the report specification includes a set of computer program instructions.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the set of computer program instructions include XML tags.
7. (Cancelled).
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein using the data definition information to ~~deduce the set of data~~ form a deduced data set further comprises deducing a physical cube structure, ~~wherein the physical cube structure includes the set of data.~~
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 ~~8~~, wherein further comprising creating ~~the a~~ query based upon the ~~deduced~~ physical cube structure ~~includes~~ using RDBMS query techniques.
10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4 ~~8~~, wherein further comprising creating ~~the a~~ query based upon the ~~deduced~~ physical cube structure ~~includes~~ using OLAP query techniques.
11. (Cancelled).
12. (Cancelled).
13. (Cancelled).
14. (Cancelled).

15. (Cancelled).
16. (New) A computer readable medium including executable instructions to:
 - present to a user a plurality of reporting objects and metadata objects;
 - accept a user input to select at least one reporting object and one metadata object;
 - parse a selected reporting object into layout information and a selected metadata object into data definition information;
 - use the data definition information to form a deduced set of data;
 - create one or more queries based upon the deduced set of data; and
 - query a data source with the one or more queries to secure retrieved data associated with the deduced set of data; and
 - present a report based upon the retrieved data and the layout information.
17. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 16 wherein each reporting object specifies at least one presentation object selected from a vertical table, a horizontal table, a cross table, a graph, a section, a page header, a page footer, and a cross-tab.
18. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 16 wherein the executable instructions to use the data definition information include executable instructions to deduce a physical cube structure.
19. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 18 further comprising executable instructions to create a query based upon the physical cube structure.